

Vol. IX.

No. 4.

# McGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

*Wednesday, November 25, 1885.*

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# UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

VOL. IX.]

MCGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 25TH, 1885.

[No. 4.]

## McGill University Gazette

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### NOTICE.

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### Editorials.

#### UNIVERSITY EXAMINERS.

The appointment of our Lecturer in Chemistry in the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. R. F. Ruttan, as examiner in Toronto University, suggests the question whether it would not be well for our own University to adopt the plan of having outside examiners appointed for the Annual University examinations, instead of the present method of having these examinations conducted wholly by our own professors. The reasons why such a change should be made are very weighty and

very apparent. In the first place, it would be an advantage to the professors themselves.

They would no doubt be very happy to be relieved of a very large amount of extremely tedious work. A selfish motive, we admit, but are we not but men! Again, it would undoubtedly be more satisfactory to them if some gentlemen independent of the college were associated with them in the work of finding out if the students to whom they have been lecturing have attained a fair knowledge of the subject which they are supposed to know. To us, certainly, the gratification would be greater if some other competent person gave it as his judgment that our class had done very well, than if we had to declare the fact ourselves.

In the second place, it would be more satisfactory to the students. There would not then be a shadow of a ground for any complaints of favouritism or prejudice. We do not mean to insinuate that there ever is, under the present system, a conscious act of favouritism on the part of the professors, but we know for a positive fact that injustice is sometimes done. This would be much less likely to occur if some examiners were appointed from other colleges, or from amongst the eminent men of the country, not connected with any college, not necessarily to supplant our own professors, but to help them.

But the weightiest argument is that this plan would largely tend to do away with that terrible evil of cramming, which is the great drawback to all competitive examinations. When students are examined solely from the professor's own lectures, cramming is sure to take place. Indeed, we have been told that in the case of one at least of our professors, the exact questions to be given can be foretold with comparative accuracy. Some attempt at remedying this state of affairs ought surely to be made, and no remedy, we opine, would be more potent than the one under consideration.

The only objection which can reasonably be urged is the old one of expense. To that plea we have no answer.

#### KEEP UP THE CUSTOMS.

The annual faculty dinner is not a custom "more honored in the breach than in the observance," neither is a valedictory; yet both of these time-honored events were omitted by the graduating class, in law, last year. It is late in the day to argue the benefits arising



from faculty dinners. To those who reap some of the greatest advantages of a college course, viz., the opportunity it gives for gaining a knowledge of the modes of thought of others, and the influences actuating them, as well as for the cultivation of those true sentiments upon which all noble actions depend, these institutions are invaluable. The custom of having a valedictory address is founded in the natural assumption, that men who have laboured together for several years with the same object in view, must find themselves so drawn towards each other and towards the school in whose classes they have fitted themselves for the duties of life, that they cannot separate without some formal expression of farewell to each other and to it.

Lawyers, as a class, are in no danger of becoming unduly sentimental. There is even a danger of the other extreme. Can it be that the intensely practical and matter-of-fact nature of their studies, even before they have left the college halls, tends to dampen the generous sentiment of youth?

We would impress upon the graduating class of '86 their duties with respect to these two things, and would urge them to take steps, early in the session, to secure both a valedictorian and a dinner.

#### THE INTER-UNIVERSITY MATCH.

The match of the season has been played and lost. Our men have nevertheless returned with honor, for all who saw the match will testify that if pluck and determination never to give in could have won success, McGill had not come away empty from Toronto.

They deserve warm praise for the doggedness with which they have fought for our honor this year, yet "nothing succeeds like success," and it will be well to find the cause of their defeat and seek to remove it. The first and most important reason for their defeat is that our men lack team play. Individually, they are well trained, but they do not pass the ball enough and rarely follow up one another. In the second place, the team contains too many light men. Between light men and heavy whose ability is the same, as it often is, there cannot be a moment's hesitation as to choice.

These are the chief reasons for our defeat, and the cause of such a state of things lies, we think, in the supineness of the majority of our students. How can there be a team practice when the team has to be divided that it may have a practice at all? How can a strong, heavy team be chosen when the captain is handicapped by a lack of men from whom to choose?

If McGill men wish to see their team as strong as it has been in former years when it was a formidable opponent to Harvard at its best, [they must give ma-

terial aid, and instead of standing idly on the campus in the afternoons or lying cuddled up in bed in the mornings, must don the jersey and push with the team shoulder to shoulder.

One more suggestion. In picking a new man for a team, if the choice lie evenly between, for example, a freshman and a senior, we advise, nay, almost insist, that the freshman be chosen, for only by such a method of choosing can the great weakener of a college team, the annual loss of several of its members by graduation, be best opposed.

WE ARE fortunate in being able to be the first to publish a series of translations of some of Horace's odes, by one of the ablest classical scholars in Canada. They are written for the GAZETTE, and even those who only faintly remember their Horace will appreciate the closeness of the translation, combined with the beauty of the English versification, while those fresh from the text will doubly enjoy Mr. Murray's happy efforts.

#### Poetry.

##### HORÆ HORATIANÆ.

###### BOOK I: ODE III.

Lydia, by all the Gods above,  
Why haste to ruin Sybaris by love?  
Why the hot Campus doth he shun.  
He, once so reckless of the dust and sun?  
Why now no longer doth he ride  
On sharp-curbed charger by his comrades' side?  
Why dreads he Tiber's yellow flood,  
And athlete's oil, as though 'twere viper's blood?  
Why doth he bare no more of late,  
His arms discoloured by their armour's weight,  
He, who was formerly renowned  
For dart and discus hurled beyond the bound?  
He hides, like sea-born Thetes' son,  
(So runs the tale) ere hapless Troy was won,  
Who sought, in woman's robes concealed,  
To 'scape the carnage of the Lycian field.

###### BOOK II: ODE VIII.

Barinè, if thy perjured truth  
Had marred the beauty of one nail,  
Or specked with black one pearly tooth,  
I might believe thy tale:

But thou art still from harm secure,  
Though all thy loving vows are lies:  
Still dost thou blaze, the cynosure  
Of youth's adoring eyes.

And still thy radiance grows more fair,  
When by the stars that nightly burn,  
And Gods immortal thou dost swear,  
And by thy mother's urn.

E'en Venus and the Graces own  
With laughter thy perfidious arts,  
And Cupid, while on bloody stone  
He whets his burning darts.

Each stripling will become thy slave,  
Fresh victims throng, and those who swore  
With frequent threats thy wrath to brave  
Still haunt thy fatal door.

Each mother dreads thee for her boy;  
Each miser old; each hapless bride,  
Lest thy too subtle spells decoy  
Her bridegroom from her side.

GEO. MURRAY.



## Contributions.

### SHOULD WE LEARN FRENCH?

Should we, the English speaking Canadians resident in Quebec, learn to speak French? This question is to-day more pertinent than for years back. It is one we should all ask ourselves at once, and our answer should be determined, not so much by the abstract value of the language, for on this ground there is not more reason for mastering French than German, nor yet because of the facilities which a knowledge of French is supposed to afford to our commerce, for English must from the nature of things on this Continent be the language of commerce, but simply because it is essential to political harmony.

The Saxon nature is wondrously complacent. Wherever we find the Englishman, we find a man satisfied that he is of superior race to the people around him. Even when he has tact enough to conceal this feeling in ordinary circumstances, he will confess it in confidence to his fellow. Perhaps in no country in the world is this feeling so utterly unfounded, or has it been productive of such baneful results as in Canada. When the English first came here there was a natural wish on the part of the conquered people to establish kindly relations with their conquerors. Their feelings against France were very bitter. She had deserted the colony in its need and during the negotiations preliminary to the Peace of Paris had entirely overlooked the devotion of her subjects across the Atlantic. Thus wounded, the people of Canada responded eagerly to the advances made them. For the English too were conciliatory. In the field they had experienced the bravery and admired the generosity of those who now made friendly overtures. Thus it was that after the conquest there was every probability that the two races would amalgamate into one people. Through reports of this state of things, the English government were led to make large concessions to their new subjects, who now became bound to their conquerors by the additional tie of gratitude. How well disposed the Canadians were to England was proved in the revolutionary war, and later in the contest of 1812-14. But as time went on, floods of Englishman poured into the country, usurping the places of honor and holding themselves aloof from their French fellow-colonists. Then gradually there grew up a feeling of race hatred, which burst into flame in 1837-38. Appeased by the concessions which followed, their demagogue leaders frightened into silence, the French rested, and once more there was a possibility of the land being possessed by a united people.

But the English would not, will not, have it so. They still continued to be exclusive, still looked upon the French as inferiors. And following the bent of their genius, they prospered exceedingly. The French are proud and sensitive, quick to resent and reciprocate the supercilious feeling of the English. Moreover to this dislike has been added the envious feeling of the poor towards the rich—class hatred to race hatred. For many years the fire has been smouldering, and

now it is being deliberately fanned into flame. Politicians are making capital out of it, and journalists are looking to it for their bread. Back in the country parishes, speeches are being made in which the English are described as oppressors of the people, piling up fortunes out of the latter's labor. In this city, in Quebec, and in each of the smaller towns there are published daily the bitterest attacks, perfect tempests of scornful denunciation, against the English. Even among cultured French-Canadians this feeling prevails. There are dreams of a French republic in America, longing looks towards France, an eagerness for closer relations with the country of their ancestors.

That such a state of things should exist, now, after a hundred years from the time when French and English settled in harmony side by side, is an historical anomaly. To what circumstances, or to what men, must we look for the special causes? The manner in which the country was settled, large territory, a thin population, a people agricultural in habit and easily contented, few manufactures, no mining industries, means of communication few, a free country, light taxation, no educational stimulus—all have had some influence in preserving the language and customs of the French people in Canada. But now most of these circumstances are altered. Those who know the people must recognise the change which the railways intersecting the province, the discovery of various minerals, the development of manufactures, are bringing about. The bustle of the outside world has penetrated Acadia. Naturally we look for the first sign in the main pursuit of the people, and we find them improving their system of agriculture, going more extensively into stock-raising and dairying. And they are restless, even moving off to the States sometimes, but especially asking more education for their children.

The material circumstances of the people are changing, but we look in vain for any alteration in their feeling towards us, the English. Their dislike for us appears to be gaining in strength, and there is more danger from it now that they are beginning to recognise the possibility of their being able to stand alone, to produce all they require without the aid of Englishmen's capital, and Englishmen's inventive, and executive ability. Unless something is done to conciliate the French, there will be trouble. And the trouble may rise to the magnitude of civil war. With the continent at our backs we may not be afraid of the result, but it is the part of wisdom to avoid the possibility of the wholesale destruction of lives and property which a civil war would involve. Even if no such calamity is to be expected, should not something be done to help on the amalgamation of the races on this continent?

There is one simple means of conciliation which, as a body, the English people of this province have persistently neglected. Although French is as much the official language of this country as English, we have doggedly refused to learn it. In our High Schools, it is true, the pupils devote two or three hours a week to what is called "studying French." They also give six hours a week to Latin and six to Greek. When they get through, they are able to translate easy passages from Greek, Latin and French authors—with the help



of a dictionary. This result is satisfactory enough as regards the classics, but is by no means gratifying with respect to French. What is wanted is a system of instruction, beginning in the primary classes, which will end in enabling all the boys and girls to speak and write French when they leave the common schools. Such a result is not unattainable, as all teachers know, who have thrown aside the idiotic system of teaching languages which generally prevails, and who begin naturally by giving their scholars a vocabulary first and the grammar afterwards.

There is no evidence we can give of a desire to live on friendly terms with our French compatriots, that will be so convincing as making the study of French compulsory in our schools, and throughout the whole school course. Outside of this there are the many practical advantages to be gained from a thorough knowledge of the French language, which are too well known to need recital here. As a means of conciliation alone, the measure proposed is worthy of adoption. Besides it will involve making the study of English compulsory in the French public schools. A word to the wise is sufficient.

W. H. TURNER.

Montreal, November 6th, 1885.

#### PROTECTION TO CIVIL ENGINEERING IN CANADA.

It will be noticed that, of late years, the professions of medicine and law are being greatly hedged about. There is legal protection for them. University training in the latter is advisable; in the former, I understand, peremptory. And the examinations for entrance to either profession are searching, strict, sweeping, and command a good knowledge of the technical and practical parts of the calling.

What of civil engineering? Do even the more intelligent portions of the masses know anything about its professional status? I think not. It is a hard-working, noble, responsible function of society, though usually unobtrusive. It is absolutely at the mercy of every impostor, unprotected.

If a young man has had special training in civil engineering at McGill or Toronto, he has a great start in the race for position, undoubtedly. But is that all he should have for his own sake and for that of the public, who travel over the roads and waterways of the country? For he has to work for a few years at the start against men whose ambition, ability or education alone would point to nothing higher, who, as mere machines, handle the instruments of the field and office. They have been taught to do that and are content; forced to be content through lack of knowledge, willing to be content through lack of ambition. It is a genteel profession, therefore they would rather stay in it than rise higher in a humbler calling. That state of affairs would be bad enough; but it might not be dangerous to human life. But is that all? What if one of these automatons is son of the powerful and influential —? or son of a friend of the member for —? Is he not apt to be foisted upon some company and either builds dangerously weak works or

ones heavy enough to be a burden to themselves? "*Honi soit qui* —" How will such men do even plain duty as well as the young man who is using his present position to fit him for higher ones? Will there be the same eager intelligence displayed? Would not examination for entrance to the profession check this evil of favouritism?

The travelling public, the masses, are practically interested. It may be life or death to many whether such a bridge, or viaduct, or trestle, or even road-bed is properly constructed, or stupidly built. (*e.g.*) If an end span of a wooden trestle be *corbelled* the same as internal spans, then this end span is either weaker than safety warrants or else the others have unnecessary and burdensome material. Who started the practice? I don't know, but dozens are being so built in Canada.

Nobody could think of wishing to debar from further practice those men whose experience and sound common sense have placed them in the first rank. They have succeeded in spite of defect and are ornaments to the profession. But for future generations of civil engineers something should be done and in our day, too. It is not to the country's interest to let the present state of affairs continue. For experience may just as easily be gained after education as without it. "Examination for entrance to the profession that carries our safety in the palm of its hand," should be a motto of the travelling public.

CECIL B. SMITH, B.A.S.

#### ANNE DANTE.

*Anne Dante* was a quiet maid,  
Whose ways were rather slow;  
And village gossips laughed and said  
She loved young *Al Legro*.

Now *Al* he was a lively chap  
And went it with a rush  
And though a *minor* he mayt ap,  
Was full of vim and push.

Old *Major Scale* he loved her, too  
His *flats* brought handsome rents  
Not *sharp* was he enough to woo  
A *natural* consequence.

Thought he "Twont *harm* any to try  
Perhaps I'll *count* a point;  
A *thorough* *base-ball* player I  
Will knock them out of joint."

Excitement soon affected *Anne*,  
A *staff* she had to use;  
She thought she'd *die* a *tonic* then  
She took to cure the blues.

Now *Al* in *treble* hid his face  
'Twas *alto'd* thin and pale;  
His even *tenor* changed its *base*,  
He's living on *fine* ale.

"Yes, I used to be a confirmed beer-drinker, but, thanks to the efforts of kind friends, I was able to throw off the awful habit," said the speaker at a Kentucky temperance meeting. "Don't you kind o' hanker after it now?" asked a dyspeptic in the crowd. "No, sir, not a cent's worth." "How did you stop?" "Just took a little whiskey now and then until the taste for beer was wholly eradicated. It was a glorious triumph, gentlemen."



## THE MATCH.\*

"Does he love me? Does he not?"  
Soft she breathes her lover's name.  
Of whom, Nellie, have you sought  
Answer from that feeble flame?

Nellie shakes her head and smiles,  
Cunning witch, she will not tell.  
Miss, in spite of all your wiles,  
Who he is I know full well.

Like a chiselled grace she stands,  
Eager eyes upon the light;  
And she shades it with her hands  
Till it strengthens and grows bright.

It has brightened up at last.  
Turn it, Nellie. There 't is done.  
See! it climbs its ladder fast  
Till the very top is won.

With her features all aglow,  
"Why, he loves me true!" she cried.  
Had it failed to tell you so,  
Nellie, dear, the match had lied.

ATTIE.

## Every Fortnight.

I was told by a person who was there that the following motion was made the other evening at the University Literary Society: "That inasmuch as the accumulation of capital is not one of the objects of the Society the surplus announced by the Treasurer as remaining in his hands after the payment of all expenses be handed over to him in recognition of the able way in which he has filled the office, and in commemoration of the unusual event of the Society's being out of debt." This was really generous, and I have no doubt that if the motion had been allowed to have been put to the meeting it would have been unanimously carried. But it is very likely that the Treasurer would have been too generous to accept the bonus. The amount of the surplus was one cent.

\* \*

The same witty gentleman who made this motion was telling the other day of a debate in which he took part, where the question whether war or intemperance produced the greatest ravages was being discussed. After he had drawn some very dreadful pictures of the effects of war and had expatiated at length upon its cruelty, inhumanity and so on, his opponent got up and said, "I admit all that my learned friend has said, but I should like to know when war ever made a man hug a lamp post and imagine it his dearest friend." This was a crushing argument, and the audience, like the Privy Council in a late case, did not think it necessary to hear any more.

\* \*

A rather good story comes from Toronto. You may have noticed that nine gentlemen were recently ad-

\* It cannot be an old custom, though it is certainly a general one, the reading of a person's sentiments by the conduct of a burning match. For those uninitiated into this way of wheedling an answer from Fate, and for the explanation of the following lines, I will briefly say that the operation consists in lighting a match, mentioning the name of the person whose faithfulness is to be tested, and then, by turning the match upside down, endeavoring to have the wood entirely burnt without the charred mass breaking. Should the column give way at any time before the flame goes out, you may "consider yourself disliked," but if it remains intact you may reason accordingly.

mitted to the Ontario Bar without an examination on account of their having been on active service in the North-West. One of these gentlemen, it is said, did not pass any of the three examinations generally required. The preliminary he was allowed on account of his being engaged in the troubles of 1837, at the time of the second examination he was on the Red River expedition, and now at last he has got through for having served against Riel.

\* \*

I am heartily sick of the discussion, *Classics versus Science*, which has been running on for such a long time in this and other papers. The one side says "only daring iconoclasts thoroughly understand the question, and they have declared that the classics must go." The other side answers, "you took only second place in your third year, you are not capable of discussing the matter at all." And so they go on, and the classics continue to be taught in the universities, and those wicked professors still hold their positions; and they may hold them, as far as I am concerned, until doomsday. But let us change the subject.

\* \*

The new medical building is well worth a visit, and will be, indeed, quite a surprise to those who have not been in the college lately. The class-rooms remind me somewhat of those in the new medical school at Edinburgh, although, of course, the building as a whole cannot compare with the latter. Half a million I think was spent on this building by the University of Edinburgh, and they are not yet satisfied. At present they have not sufficient funds to carry out their design, but they intend after a time to pull down a number of large houses and extend the building very considerably. One of the class-rooms is capable of seating six or seven hundred students. The external appearance of the building is very fine—the style I think is gothic—but the general effect is somewhat impaired by a tall factory chimney in the centre. This chimney is used for the ventilation of the building under a new plan invented by the London engineer, Mr. Phipson, a near relative by the way of our affable librarian, Mr. Taylor. On the whole I should think the Edinburgh medical building is the finest in the world.

\* \*

The older part of the University is a gloomy pile, situated at some distance from the medical school. It does not look so badly once you get inside the quadrangle, but its appearance from the street is certainly disappointing.

\* \*

"I have been deceived; She whom I fancied a daughter of paradise, has proved to be one of the infamous disciples of Han! I have lost a trifle; I have gained the consolation of having discovered a deceiver. I once more, therefore, relax into my former indifference with regard to the *Canadian landladies*; they once more begin to appear disagreeably in my eyes."



The above quotation was suggested to me by a second visit which I paid the other evening to the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE Club.

\* \*

I hope that none of my readers will be startled by the announcement, but I intend to draw attention in this column to one or two of the defects, as I have the impertinence to consider them, of the professors of McGill University. I do not mean, of course, their purely personal defects. I leave the care of these to their respective wives and clergymen. Nor yet have I the presumption to refer to their purely professional defects—I don't think they have any, and therefore could not if I would. The defects which I wish to criticize are those which I consider they display with respect to the duties devolving upon them on account of the position which they hold socially and officially, as the most important members of a great University placed in the midst of a large commercial city. I hope that what I may say will be taken in good part by them; if they do not so take it,—well, I shall be very sorry.

\* \*

This fortnight I shall merely enumerate one or two of the points which I wish to refer to subsequently. In the first place we should expect, and it is right that we should expect, that the professors of the University would form a centre of intellectual life in this city—a fountain from which should flow a constant stream of influence vivifying art and science and literature in all directions. Is this the state of things existing at present? I should like to be able to say yes, but my regard for the truth compels me to say no. The energies of the professors appear to be exhausted in the class-rooms of the college—they themselves seem to have fossilized into teaching-machines.

It follows as a corollary to the above, a corollary being, if I remember my Euclid aright, an inference immediately deducible from a proposition, that the professors should take more interest in the outside organizations of the University, such for instance as the Literary Societies and others. They should try to follow up the admirable work which they do in the class-rooms, by exerting themselves on behalf of culture in those more fraternal gatherings, where all meet on the same footing, and no one is perched on a rostrum.

Then from a social point of view our professors are a perfect failure.

\* \*

"We are delicate machines," says Emerson, "and require nice treatment to get from us the maximum of power and pleasure. We need tonics, but must have those that cost little or no reaction. \* \* \* Of all the cordials known to us, the best, safest, and most exhilarating, with the least harm, is society; and every healthy and efficient mind passes a large part of life in the company most easy to him."

\* \*

Again he says of clubs, they "must be self-protecting, and obstacles arise at the outset. There are people

who cannot well be cultivated, whom you must keep down and quiet if you can. There are those who have the instinct of a bat to fly against any lighted candle and put it out,—marplots and contradictors. There are those who go only to talk, and those who go only to hear: both are bad. A right rule for a club would be,—admit no man whose presence excludes any one topic. It requires people who are not surprised and shocked, who do and let do, and let be, who sink trifles, and know solid values, and who take a great deal for granted."

There are some people we are to keep down, eh!

\* \*

I have been informed that there are certain poets of a dangerous character at large at present in the University. Their productions are not translations from the German; their works are original. But they are works of darkness, I am afraid. One worthy gentleman complained to me of having been maliciously libelled by one of these versifiers, "He didn't mind the libel so much, it couldn't affect his reputation, but what he objected to was the doggerel in which it was contained." And would you believe it, the next day he himself had turned poet and answered the man who had libelled him, with worse verses, and a worse libel. So *liable* are we to follow a bad example.

\* \*

My friend "Iduna" kindly sends me the following touching verses, contributed by Mr. Samuel V. Cole to the *Critic* some time ago.

#### A FRIEND'S BOOK.

"This book is his? the gorgeous dreams between  
"These covers his, the friend's I used to know?  
"Yet many a morn together have we seen  
"The clouds refold their airy tents and go.

"And many a silent evening from the glen,  
"The mountains blazing with their golden camp.  
"Fool that I was not to have known him then!  
"I never guessed he owned Aladdin's lamp:

"He seemed like other men whom one may meet  
"But, like the honey-bees, with skill untold,  
"He gathered treasures even at my feet,  
"And in the dark was building roofs of gold!"

CRITIC.

### McGill News.

The valedictorian of the graduating class in Medicine is W. C. Crockett, B.A.

The Leslie Shelton prize for the best summer report in the Science Faculty, has been awarded to Brown and Reid, of the fourth year, their essays being of equal merit.

Dr. R. F. Ruttan, B.A. (Tor.) has been appointed examiner in chemistry for Toronto University, one of the greatest honors the Senate of the University can confer on a young graduate.

The annual sale of periodicals belonging to the Reading Room took place on Saturday, Nov. 14th. Mr. McCarthy was auctioneer to perfection, and the sum brought by the sale was about fifty-three dollars.



The dinner of the University Literary Society will come off at the Windsor Hotel next Friday evening, and it is hoped that a large number of graduates and some undergraduates will be present. An excellent programme of toasts has been prepared.

Acting on the students' petition, the Faculty of Arts granted the students in their Faculty a holiday on Friday, the 13th. They ought to be thanked, for they went to the trouble of calling a special meeting in order to give a decision. The hint in their reply about sending in petitions in time for a regular Faculty meeting ought to receive due attention.

The first year in Medicine are rather greedy, having had no less than three presidents within one month. Their first selection was called home, then a number of the year assembled, and one of them said "*we'll arrange this. I'll be president if you like,*" and they liked. Soon after, a general meeting of the year was held when President No. 2 resigned, but failed to be reelected. He was heard to remark afterwards that "he was sorry he resigned." Their third ruler uneasy walks the earth, for another revolution is rumored, when doubtless some more popular man will appear.

The annual fall hare and hounds of our college was held on Friday, Nov. 13th. Reford and Johnson, the hares, got off at 10 a.m., and seven minutes after their departure eleven hounds started in pursuit. The course was along the east end of the mountain, then westward between the two cemeteries to the quarries. St. Laurent was then a goal for the hares, but Pritchard, one of the hounds, caught up just as they entered the village. Seven of the eleven hounds were in at the death. In the run home, A. R. Johnson, one of the hares, was first in. Despite the mud and mist the run seems to have been very successful. The main incidents were: a head and cheese lunch at St. Laurent, and two men down with cramps on the home run.

On Saturday, Nov. 14th., at 8.55 a.m., the members of the Geology Class met Sir William Dawson at Bonaventure station. The turn out was very poor, when the splendid state of the weather is taken into consideration; but those present determined to make up in interest what they lacked in number. The first point, St. Anne's, being reached, the Principal led his pupils to the points of greatest interest, the oldest rock formation on the Island of Montreal. This is a ridge of Potsdam Sandstone running north-west and south-east. The so-called Calciferous sandstone was then visited, and the relative positions of this and the Potsdam found out. After a good forenoon's work, the party returned, heavily laden to the station, where lunch was discussed,—the meal being much improved by Sir William's thoughtful kindness. Pointe Claire was the next place, the quarries being the principal points. The bags for collecting the specimens of the party were gradually swelling with the many rich prizes, till darkness came on. Fortunately the home train was on time, and Montreal was reached in time for a late supper. The desire for a trip to some Laurentian formation was expressed on the homeward journey, which feeling evidently arose from the enjoyment of this excursion.

## Societies.

### UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY.

A meeting of this society was held on Friday evening, the 14th inst., Mr. McGoun, the President, in the chair.

There was a good attendance, the following being present: Messrs. Archibald, S. Cross, Goldstein, Sproule, Barnard, Rev. J. A. Newnham, Murray, Budden, Turner, Reddy, Colquhoun, Bryson, Unsworth, Brown, Elliot, Brooke, Mackie, Wright, Fry, R. Greenshields, Dunton and Campbell.

The large audience was drawn, no doubt, by the interest attached at the present time to the subject for discussion, "Should the penalty of death be inflicted for political offences?" as well as by the ability of the gentlemen chosen to speak, Messrs. Archibald, Hutchinson, Cooke and Doherty. None of these gentlemen put in an appearance, except Mr. Archibald. His speech was, as might have been expected from the legal knowledge and great ability of the speaker, a good one. Mr. Selkirk Cross kindly volunteered and spoke forcibly and well. In every other respect the debate was a grand fizzle. A large audience went away disappointed, and the sooner the society rises to a sense of its own dignity and treats such disrespect as that shown by members who have accepted positions on a debate and absent themselves, sometimes for poor, very frequently for no reason at all, as it deserves, the better for itself.

### UNDERGRADUATES' LITERARY SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society, Nov. 20th, was unusually interesting and lengthy. Several motions were brought before the meeting, and, after considerable discussion, were carried. One of these motions was to the effect—That a letter be sent to the University Literary Society in acknowledgment of a friendly circular received from that society about the beginning of this session. Another provided for a lecture by Sir Wm. Dawson before the society at the beginning of next term; and the third was an amendment in the constitution. The programme was introduced by an essay given by Mr. H. M. Patton, entitled "The Taking of the Bastille." Mr. J. Hislop gave a reading entitled "Bullum vs. Boatum." The subject for debate—"Resolved, that it would be in the interest of higher education to federate all Canadian Universities into one University," was next taken up. E. E. Braithwaite led the affirmative, pointing out that the accumulated wealth would result in greater educational attainments. A. R. Johnson next, spoke on the affirmative, showing the national benefit to be derived from the mingling of students from all parts of Canada. A. P. Bryson followed next on the same side, upholding the arguments of the affirmative. The negative was supported by Messrs. F. Charters, M. H. Patton and W. A. Duke. Mr. Charters pointed out the difficulty of creed and nationality. Mr. Patton showed that by such a scheme smaller towns would be deprived of their literary life. There being a tie of votes, the chair decided in favor of the affirmative. Mr. F. Topp having read his critique for the evening, the meeting adjourned.



## MCGILL MEDICAL SOCIETY.

On November 7th, the McGill Medical Society met at 14 Phillips Square. The President Dr. Stewart, in the chair. After the appointment of committees to procure keys for reading room and to order journals, periodicals, dailies etc., for the same, twenty one new members were elected.

Mr. A. Campbell then read a very interesting and carefully prepared paper on vaccination, which elicited some interesting and humorous discussion. It is highly desirable that more of the final year take a livelier interest in the society than is manifested at present. The society has a very large membership this year.

In future the fortnightly meetings will be held in the Reading Room of the society.

## THE MARITIME ASSOCIATION.

The second annual meeting of the Maritime Association of McGill University was held on the evening of Wednesday, the 4th inst. There was a large and enthusiastic attendance of members, among whom were not a few new faces. The chief business of the evening, the election of officers for the ensuing year, resulted in the appointment of the following: President, A. D. MacDonald; First Vice-President, E. A. Kirkpatrick; Second Vice-President, R. E. Palmer; Secretary, H. D. Fritz; Treasurer, W. B. Taylor. The General Committee was also appointed, consisting of the following five members: C. P. Ball, H. E. Kendall, J. A. Nicholson, F. J. Desmond, P. H. Warneford.

After a discussion of some length, in which a number of the members participated, it was resolved that the Association hold an annual dinner. The Secretary was requested to send a report of this, the annual meeting, to the leading papers of the Maritime Provinces.

## MOOT COURT.

A session of the Moot Court was held on the 29th ult. M. Hutchinson, Esq. B. C. L. presiding. *In re John Jones vs Thomas Brown*, a petition was presented by Messrs Murchison and Bourgeois, Atty's. for Defendant, to quash a *capias* issued at the instance of Plaintiff.

The grounds upon which the petition was based were these:—That the wife of plaintiff was legally incompetent to make an affidavit upon which to issue a writ of *capias*; that the affidavit did not allege the domicile of plaintiff; that the statement of the cause of indebtedness is insufficient; that it is not stated that the note mentioned in the affidavit is now due; that the affidavit does not declare where the debt was contracted, and that the grounds for believing the debtor about to leave the Province with intent to defraud are insufficient.

Messrs. Wright and McKay, Atty's. for Plaintiff, opposed the petition.

The learned judge in rendering judgement highly complimented the Attorneys on both sides for the ability with which they had conducted the case, re-

marking that their speeches would compare favourably with those heard every day in our courts.

Held that points 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 raised in Defendant's petition were ill-founded; but that the grounds for believing the debtor about to leave the Province with intent to defraud, as stated in the affidavit, were insufficient, and that therefore the *capias* must be quashed.

## UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY.

A meeting of this society was held on the evening of Friday the 6th inst. Mr. McGoun, the President, in the chair.

Mr. Dunton was elected a member of the society. The President explained the reasons which induced the general committee to change the place of meeting; and also intimated that the Council was considering the advisability of asking the society to hold a dinner this year.

The debate upon,—“Should a degree in Arts be a necessary qualification for admission to the study of the learned professions?” then followed. Messrs. Francis McLennan and A. McGoun jr., spoke on the affirmative, and Messrs C. J. Brooke and J. K. Unsworth on the negative. Mr. McLennan is one of the most pleasing speakers the society possesses: he reasons well, speaks fluently, uses well-chosen language, and has a fund of very enjoyable good-natured humour, which he contrives to weave into his speeches. Mr. Unsworth's speech was an exceedingly good one. His arguments were practical and were handled in an effective manner. This gentleman is to be congratulated upon his *debut* in the society, and the society upon the ability evidently possessed by some of its newly elected members. Messrs Brooke and McGoun both spoke without previous preparation.

The decision of the meeting was in favour of the negative. The following members were present:—Messrs. Fry, Brooke, F. McLennan, Mackie, Elliot, Wright, Smith, Oughtred, Murray, Dunton, Unsworth, and Colquhoun

## UNDERGRADUATES' LITERARY SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on the evening of Nov. 6th, was called to order by the President, Mr. N. P. Yates. Mr. Mason's motion to amend the constitution was taken up, and, after Mr. Topp had withdrawn his amendment, the meeting decided to let the constitution remain unaltered.

Messrs. F. Pedley, Topp and Hibbard gave notices of motion.

Mr. Chalmers opened the programme with an essay on “Small-pox.” This proved very interesting, as one might well suppose. The reader of the evening was Mr. A. Bryan, who sought to benefit the morals of the Society by “A Modern Sermon.”

“Resolved, that the first year entrance examinations of McGill University should be made equivalent to the present matriculation into the second year,” was the subject under discussion. Messrs. H. Goff, H. Curtis and A. MacArthur were eloquent enough to obtain a verdict in favour of the affirmative, although the nega-



tive side was ably supported by Messrs. F. Hibbard, Pritchard, and G. W. Stevens. Mr. F. Pedley, the critic, made his remarks, which won approval from all.

The meeting on the evening of Nov. 13th. was called to order by Mr. N. P. Yates, the President, the following members being present: Messrs. Braithwaite, Clements, McOuat, Pedley, Topp, Cameron, Gerrie, MacArthur, Murray, Solandt, Duke, Jamieson, Pedley, Pritchard, Curtis, Sweeney, Buchanan, Johnson, Mason, Reford, Lucas, Hopkins, Hislop, McCallum, McPhail, the Vice-President, R. Henderson, and two visitors. Mr. Hibbard's motion to amend the constitution was withdrawn. Mr. Pedley's motion was partly discussed. Mr. Topp gave notice of motion.

The programme was opened by an essay on "Public Speaking," by Mr. A. P. Solandt; there was evidence of great care in preparation, and a thorough knowledge of the subject in this rather lengthy paper. "The Aged Man" was the extract for reading chosen by Mr. MacArthur.

"Resolved that Chinese Immigration to Canada should be Prohibited," was supported by Messrs. Gerrie, McPhail, and Murray, and attacked by Messrs. McOuat, Cameron and Mason. Justice may have triumphed, as well as eloquence, for the negative side was sustained by the meeting. E. H. P. Blackader, B.A., being present, said a few words, and the meeting adjourned at a late hour after hearing Mr. McCallum's critical remarks.

## Sporting.

### FOOTBALL NOTES.

On Thanksgiving Day the Freshmen, although playing only twelve men, beat the Third Fifteen of the Britannia's, by the score of 59 points to 0.

The return match for the Faculty championship, between Science and Medicine, was played on the 13th inst. Science, who had two men less than their opponents, won by 8 points to 1 after a very exciting contest. This leaves Science in possession of the coveted honor.

The Second Fifteen of the Britannia's defeated the Second Fifteen of McGill on the 14th. At the end of the first three quarters the score favored the Britannia's by 2 to 0, but in the second half time McGill went to pieces, and were finally beaten by 23 to 0.

The annual meeting of the Football Club, to reorganize for the session of '86-7, took place on the evening of the 17th instant and was signalled by the largest attendance known for years, nearly 60 members being present. After routine and special business, one item of which was a provision for the drafting of a new and most necessary constitution, the election of officers took place and resulted as follows:—

President—R. E. Palmer, Ap. Sc.

Secretary—W. J. Hamilton, Ap. Sc.

Treasurer—J. A. Springle, Med.

Captain—A. E. J. Macdonnell, Med.

Committee—Henderson and Kirby, Arts; May and Macnutt, Science; Bradley and Taylor, Medicine; Budden, Law.

As large and energetic a meeting as this augurs well for the success of the club next year.

### FOOTBALL.

The committee have decided to give a handsome cup as an Annual Inter-Faculty Trophy. The Faculty winning in a series of matches will be entitled to hold the cup for a year. This is a move in the right direction, and will be sure to increase the already largely reviving interest in football.

### MCGILL vs. TORONTO.

We went up by instalments, fifteen on Thursday and nine on Friday, both parties, especially the first, making things lively for the other passengers. The terrible vaccinator, before whom we had been prepared to tremble, was a young fellow as light-hearted as ourselves, and from him we of the second brigade learnt the doings of the first: how they sang, played the guitar, bounced a companion, to the disgust of the conductor, who seemed to think this his prerogative, and finally, how they, even the captain, larked with the lazy members of the team far into the "*wee sma hours*."

We had our larks too, but these were of a milder kind, and not long after we had passed Ottawa, all but two of us were adding a gentle snore to the noisy rumble of the car. These two, confirmed late-hour men, stood on the platform, smoking and spinning yarns until nearly one o'clock.

We were met at Toronto by the members of the first brigade, who escorted us to the Walker House for breakfast, after which we turned out to do the town. Those of us who went to the 'Varsity were very kindly shown through its magnificent buildings by one of the students, but the rest of us had to depend on our own bumps of locality to bring us back to the Walker House. We had come up prepared to be shunned as small-pox disseminators but our imagination had never led us to dream that we should be mistaken for soldiers of the Salvation Army, as we were. However we flatter ourselves that we undecieved the citizens before we left.

At two o'clock we all piled into a chartered 'buss and drove to the 'Varsity, our fellows singing lustily within and being now and then cheered by the crowd that gathered in the streets as we passed. We soon entered the 'Varsity gates and, drawing up before the main entrance to the college, poured out, a flood of excited humanity, upon the sodden grounds.

Then ensued a wait of twenty minutes for a member of the team who had allowed the charms of one of Toronto's fair daughters to silence the call of duty. He turned up in time and play began at three o'clock, the 'Varsity kicking off. Our "half backs" were not quick enough in returning and a series of scrimmages resulted, ending in a rouge on our part. Senkler got the ball as it was kicked off and ran down to our



goal, losing it just at the line but forcing another rouge. Brown kicked the ball out, sending it bouncing into touch, but on its being thrown out Senkler got it again and made a neat run behind our goal line, his speed being too much for Hamilton. The kick was a failure and play was resumed with greater vim than ever, McGill slowly forcing the leather up the field by a series of scrimmages, in which May and Dunlop particularly distinguished themselves by foiling all attempts to run on the part of the Toronto wings. It was beginning to rain, but so intense was the excitement of the spectators that few left the field. Just before half-time Dunlop got in a good run and the ball was brought well up to the Toronto goal.

Play was resumed at 3.55, McGill rushing the ball down into dangerous proximity to their opponents' goal. But in the scrimmage that ensued the superior weight of the 'Varsity told and the ball was slowly but surely driven back, until at last, by a piece of rapid passing, it got into the hands of Ed Senkler and was dropped over our cross bar.

This took place in the fourth quarter-of-an-hour and from this to the end the advantage was, if anything, with McGill, who concentrated their energies and, following the ball as it was kicked off, overtook the 'Varsity "backs" before they could return it and forced them to rouge. Scrimmages became the order of the day, the advantage lying sometimes with the one, sometimes with the other team. Ed. Senkler got the ball about this time and made a touch, Hamilton and others, thinking he had run over the touch line, not attempting to check him. The kick from this was, like the preceding one, a failure.

Had the touch line been properly marked out and the crowd kept back, Senkler would never have got within twenty-five yards of our goal. The score was 16 to 1 in favor of Toronto when time was called, yet the game had been so well contested that it never at any moment appeared one-sided.

The 'Varsity owed their victory in part to their better team play, but chiefly to their superior weight and strength, the difference between the two teams being so marked that a spectator was heard to say as the teams came upon the field, "What's the use sending up those boys to play our men?"

The play was good-humoured throughout, though terribly in earnest. Springle broke one of his fingers early in the match, but played on gamely to the end, to the disappointment of the reserves.

The teams were as follows :

McGill.		'Varsity.
W. Hamilton,	Back.	W. P. Mustard
C. B. Brown,	Half-backs.	C. Marani
W. Reid,		H. Senkler
H. Kemp,	Quarter-backs.	J. Moss
J. Dunlop,		E. Senkler
J. May,	Forwards.	A. Elliott
J. Kerry,		H. McLaren
R. O'Sullivan,		G. Richardson.
J. Kerby,		W. Nesbitt
R. Palmer,		H. B. Cronyn.
J. Nasmith,		H. B. Bruce
C. McNutt,		F. Robertson
J. Springle,		D. Ferguson
H. Patton,		A. G. Smith
W. Macdonnell,		J. S. MacLean
Referee—G. Gordon.		
C. Swabey.	Umpires.	C. Pardee.

The complimentary dinner at the Rossin House was a grand success. Cronyn and Kerry in their speeches and Frost, Hughes, Patton and Aylen with their songs bringing down the house. Time was short, however, and we soon broke up. The 'Varsity men accompanied us to the station, and amid songs and cheers we rolled out into the darkness of our homeward journey.

## Personals.

Dr. G. B. Rowell, '84 has a flourishing practice at Point St. Charles.

A. A. MacKay, B.A., has registered as a student at the Dalhousie Law School in Halifax.

T. Henderson, Science, '87, is now working on the Waddington Railway, near Ogdensburg.

Mr. J. A. Boyd, Law '88, is down with typhoid fever, but we rejoice to hear he is recovering.

Professors Darey and Coussirat have been appointed *officiers d'academie*, not officers of the French Academy.

Henry Hamilton, B. Ap. Sc., '84, has returned from exploring the Rockies. He enjoyed everything save the salt pork.

Dr. D. J. G. Wishart, B.A. (Tor.) M.D.; C.M. (McGill) M.C.P. and S. (Ont.) has supplied a want long felt by adding L.R.C.P. (Lond.) at the recent examinations. Come home skipper, you've got enough!

## College World.

—"The university," says Mr. Lowell "is not the school for a breadwinner, but my idea is rather that it should be the life-long sweetness of all the bread he ever gets."

Dr. Wm. B. Carpenter, the distinguished microscopist, died a few days ago from the effect of burns caused by the overturning of a lamp. He was a brother of the Dr. Carpenter whose fine collection of shells now adorns our Museum.

According to the Lyons Medical, the number of women practicing Medicine in England in 1881 was twenty five. From 1880 to 1884 eight had been placed in Asylums, and at the end of last year three were under treatment. In the same country one out of every seven hundred physicians or clergymen became insane. Among lawyers the proportion was one in a hundred.

The cause of the higher education of women has been steadily advancing in Russia since 1867. In that year a woman suggested to a congress of naturalists at St. Petersburg the advisability of founding a university for women. The congress ruled her proposals out of order, but in the following year 400 Russian women presented a written demand to the professors of the St. Petersburg University, asking them to organize



special lectures upon scientific subjects, and these were given in a modified form from 1870 to 1875, when regular courses of learning for women were established. In the first year of the lectures being authorized they were attended by 581 students, and the total attendance for the last seven years has been upward of 2500. A new lecture room has recently been opened for the accommodation of the female students.

It is stated that there are 139 medical schools in the United States and Canada, containing about 12,000 students, viz., 10,000 regular, 1200 homœopathic, 750 eclectic and 50 physio-medical students. The total number of doctors is about 100,000, or on an average one to every 500 inhabitants.

The University of New Brunswick, begins the present session with three professors, one lecturer, and a freshman class of about 30. Dr. Harrison, recently professor of English literature and moral science, has succeeded Dr. W. Brydone Jack, as principal of the University. Never, perhaps, in the history of the university, were there more strenuous efforts put forth to increase the influence and patronage of this institution, than at present.

The Queen's College, Kingston, students are strict. The *Concursus Iniquitatis* (court of iniquity) takes notice of the following crimes, contained in an intimation posted up, and claiming that students, and freshmen especially, are amenable to the court for the following offences: 1. Cheek. 2. Misappropriating articles. 3. Destroying college property. 4. Using tobacco in any form or at any place. 5. Showing disrespect to professors. 6. Showing undue preference for ladies society. 7. Ostentatiously displaying cane or gloves. 8. Neglecting to give senior students preference, especially in regard to choice seats at public concerts. 9. Using profane or indecent language. 10. Entering saloons. 11. Frequenting operas. 12 Neglecting class work, or neglecting to wear the college costumes during class hours in college. 13. Contempt of court.

Evidently the life philosophic tends to longevity. There are at present at the various German Universities no fewer than one hundred and fifty-seven professors between the ages of seventy and ninety. Of these, one hundred and twenty-two deliver their lectures as usual, seven of them being more than eighty-five years of age. The oldest is the veteran Von Ranke, the historian, who is now in his nine tieth year, but is not considered fully equal in vigor, memory and other faculties to Professor Elvenich, who is thirty-nine days his junior. After all, it is not remarkable that a professor should live to a good old age. He has a secured income and congenial pursuits. He ought to be devoid of the unworthy passions that shorten existence, and to lead a life as placid as that of the gods of Epicurus. But Germany, in spite of the figures we have quoted, cannot show a professor equal to M. Chevreuil, of Paris, who still lectures, still writes, still conducts his experiments in chemistry, still walks every day from his house to his laboratory, and will, if he lives, be one hundred years of age in the August of next year.—*London Register*.

## Between the Lectures.

A lady who swept up the aisle  
With her hair all arranged in a paisle  
To her escort thus spoke:  
"What causes the folk,  
Whenever I pass by to smaile?"

## OUR OWN JOKER AT WORK.

First Toronto Small Boy: "See, Jim! them's the Salvation Army. My eyes, don't they howl."

Second T. S. B.: "Oh, psha, them ain't the Salvation blokes. Them's the McGill boys."

A musical Amateur to Professor: "Herr von Schlamhardt, don't you think my voice is a good baritone?"

"Professor, "Yes, wheel-barrow tone."

Junior, to fresh trying to raise a moustache, "What's the difference between your moustache and a yeast plant?"

"Freshie, effusively, "The tendency of the one is down, and of the other is up?"

Junior, "No."

"Freshie, "What is it then?"

"Junior, crushingly, "No difference except that the yeast plant grows at the rate of several million cells per day."

Our punster wants to know if one of our surveying instruments gets its name from *the odd delight* it gives to students who have to use it while they want to play football.

It is said, though we do not believe it, that a soph has a girl who buttons her boots with the curved handle of her parasol. If this is true, she must be a person of solid *understanding* and doubtless puts her foot down to some purpose.

One who signs himself "A Friend" sends us the following execrable puns, which make us doubt his friendly intentions. He has evidently been struck with our mineral cabinet of last number.

"Whoever has seen *apetite* and not able to *cerite* has usually found him having *emery* time in *allophte*, and though he may not have looked *aphrite* when he went in he certainly is a *chabazite* when he comes out."

It is not our enemies but our friends, of whom we must beware.

A certain med. who boards at the Wesleyan College is fond of a Sunday morning nap. Last Sunday he was wakened by his neighbors who were singing hymns, and just as they were in the middle of "Pull for the shore," he horrified them by shouting out "I wish you fellows wouldn't sing boating songs on Sunday."

"So poor Jones has the small-pox," said Fitznoodle to Smith.

"Yes, poor fellow, I feel for him."

"Well," went on Fitznoodle, getting out of Smith's reach, "A man with the small-pox is sure to be *pitted*, you know."



Why is Prince Alexander's kingdom like the seat of a boy's pants? Because its the Bulgaria.

Our "Assistant Professor" says that mineral analysis seems to be chiefly "A demmed horrid *grind*. This is a *morterfying* announcement for would-be chemists.

Jones, to Smith—"You're the laziest fellow I know."

Smith—"I'm not nearly so lazy as I might be."

Jones—"How do you make that out? You don't get up until ten, and you never do a stroke of work from the time you get up till the time you go to bed again."

Smith—"I might get up at eight, you know. That would give me two more hours of solid loafing."

We have had conventions of bankers, of telegraph operators, of brakemen, of merchants, and, in fact, of nearly every kind of men. The latest suggestion is for all the poets to meet and hold sweet communion with one another in New York or London next year. If the idea is carried into practical effect, it will at last give the dynamiters a chance to confer an inestimable boon on the entire civilized world.

"Can't you tell me, sir, where I might find a situation?" asked a young man of a Montreal citizen. "I am a stranger here." "What at?" was the reply. "Oh anything at all; I am not afraid to work." "Got any recommendations?" "Well, no; but I am industrious, I am honest, I go to church regularly, I don't drink, I don't chew, I don't smoke, I don't lie." "Ah! I see. Just apply around the corner at the dime museum."

## Correspondence.

### THE STUDY OF CLASSICS.

*Editors University Gazette:*

DEAR SIRS.—I have neither time nor inclination to answer attacks that may be made upon myself or my writings, especially when, as in the letter of H.M.P., those attacks contain their own refutation. The evidences in that letter of the "deep and various thought" which comes from "doing classics thoroughly" are too striking to call for comment. But the letter permits me, without suspicion of egotism, to state a few facts, personal to myself, which in judging the merits of optional, as opposed to compulsory courses, should weigh more than the most lengthy argument.

In the years immediately preceding my entrance to college, though even then strongly possessed with utilitarian ideas, I came under the influence of a man of singularly fine intellect, an enthusiastic student of the classics, and one whose power of translating from Greek or Latin into vivid English words I have never seen surpassed. The result was that, involuntarily, I learned something of the dead languages, and my "standing" was rather above than "below the average." On coming to McGill I found another system. Where before I had been brought face to face with glowing flesh, I was now confronted with dry bones. Then I formed the plan which afterwards I deliberately

executed. I absented myself from as many of the so-called lectures on classics as I could, without jeopardising my year, and during each of the first two sessions I never wasted any time in preparation of class recitations, save when I expected to be called upon to construe. A few days—once only two—before examination, I commenced to cram, and in not a great many hours prepared enough of a session's work to pass an examination upon it. Naturally my "standing was rather below the average."

Mine was not an isolated case either. My plan was that of others in the same year, and out. Of my class nineteen graduated, and not one of them in the third grade; yet of the nineteen, eight refused to study classics at all after the second year, only three took both Latin and Greek, and not one chose the honour course in classics. I may affirm more. The number of students in classics would have been less even than it was, had it not been for the regulations of the various theological colleges and the bar.

It would be wrong to suppose that the time, which was not devoted to classics by those who pursued the system I have described, was wasted. It was spent profitably in the library, the gymnasium, the football field, and the debating society, each of these institutions receiving a stronger support from the students of '84 than from those of any other year then in college.

Are not these facts to the point? A man may enter the greatest institution of learning on this Continent, the honoured university of Harvard, without knowing one Greek letter from another, and, after he has entered, he need never lift the cover of a Latin work; but then he must know French and German, the pure mathematics, the elements of chemistry and botany, psychology and logic. Supposing McGill University had dealt thus liberally with the class of '84, the class to which it is my pride and boast to have belonged, what would have been the result? For one thing, the class would have graduated more than nineteen, for some of its brightest intellects dropped out in disgust before the end of the second year finding in college no profit for themselves. And those who took the classical course would have been so few, that they would have been brought to early graves by the frequency with which "your turn to read" and "well gwon" would have sounded in their ears.

But seriously, I put it to any reasonable person whether it is not cruel to force students into a study which, they believe, cannot ever be of the slightest possible advantage to them. No wonder that in such work they prefer their standing to be "rather below the average."

Yours faithfully,

W. H. TURNER.

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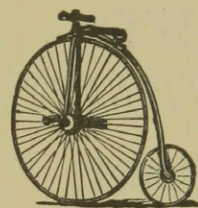
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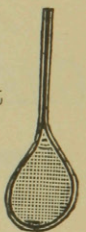
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